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NEUROLOGY.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

SIR,—Herewith you will receive the minutes of a series of experiments performed by Dr. Jos. R. Buchanan, in presence of a committee of medical gentlemen, consisting of B. F. Joslin, M.D., J. H. Griscom, M.D., C. L. Mitchell, M.D., and the undersigned. It was contemplated, in the first place, to carry out experimentally, with a view to determine their truth, the various alleged discoveries of Dr. Buchanan's system of neurology; but this design, in consequence of Dr. B.'s speedy departure from this city, has been, in a measure, frustrated. Fortunately, however, he is now wending his way to your city, which has been ever distinguished for liberality, as regards the free and untrammelled exercise of opinion. With us, every gentleman who has become acquainted with Dr. B., is fully satisfied of the honorable motives prompting his present devotion to these investigations. He is truly a bold and an original thinker, and an untiring searcher after truth.

As mankind have, in all ages, been the dupes of deceptions practised upon the love of the marvellous, the wise have consequently been always very justly on their guard against easy credulity; but notwithstanding this fact, it becomes not the true philosopher of the present era, because some favorite and long-cherished system might possibly be disturbed, to shut the avenues of his external senses against the intrusion of any evidence however marvellous. In the fact that many natural phenomena which were formerly regarded with superstitious awe, have been satisfactorily explained on scientific principles, we are taught the important lesson, not to decide precipitately that any phenomenon is too marvellous for credence.

It is not intended to present here even a sketch of the principles of neurology. Suffice it to say, that to Dr. B. is due the distinguished honor of being the *first individual to excite the organs of the brain by agencies applied externally directly over them*; and before this discovery, on the assumption of its truth, those of Gall, Spurzheim, Magendie, and Sir Charles Bell, dwindle into comparative insignificance. If we admit that by this means, in "*impressible*" subjects, have become discoverable the various cerebral organs, which are connected not only with the phenomena of thought and feeling, but which control the corporeal powers, it follows that this discovery has revealed the key to man's nature, moral, intellectual and physical.

A striking peculiarity characteristic of Dr. B.'s experiments is, that, instead of putting the subject first into the Mesmeric somnambule condition, by which the phenomena that follow may be rendered highly deceptive and inaccurate, he operates upon him in the natural *waking* state, free from the mental delusions which may be supposed to pertain to somnambulism.

Such announcements as these will no doubt be considered by many of your readers as inadmissible in the sober pages of a journal dedicated to medical science; but, notwithstanding this pardonable prejudice, you will not, I trust, refuse admission to this article, seeing that experimental verifications of the excitement of the separate organs of the brain, thus calling forth in an intense degree their natural language and action, have been, it is alleged, both in this country and in Europe, separately witnessed under circumstances defying all collusion. The first experiment detailed in the minutes, I have myself since successfully verified upon a naval medical officer.

Although the experiments making up the minutes are comparatively few in number, more than ten times as many having been witnessed by myself; yet, in consideration of their precise physiological character, they cannot fail to direct to the subject the attention of the profession. Moreover, these experiments are entitled to more than ordinary respect, from the circumstance that the three members associated with me on this committee, are accustomed to the investigations of philosophical questions. All have been, or are now, teachers of medical science or its collateral branches.

When Dr. B. reaches your city, it is to be hoped that he will be received in a manner corresponding with your reputation for enlightened and liberal views. That the medical profession, on subjects of this kind, has prejudices that are almost insuperable, will, it is presumed, not be denied. These have now been here removed to a degree sufficient to give the subject a fair investigation, were it not that Dr. B. is on the point of departing for Albany prior to visiting your city. To the medical profession, in consideration of their knowledge of anatomy and physiology, belongs the investigation of this question. Let it therefore be immediately taken up by the leading members of the faculty of your city; and let not the opprobrious lines written by Galileo to Kepler, already quoted on this subject, become applicable to yourselves:—"Here, at Padua, is the principal professor of philosophy, whom I have repeatedly and urgently requested to look at the moon and planets through my glasses, which he pertinaciously refuses to do."

New York, January 12th, 1843.

SAMUEL FORRY, M.D.

#### MINUTES.

These meetings are not put in the order of their occurrence—the first, as its experiments are most complex, being placed last. Committee met January 9th—present Drs. Joslin, Mitchell and Forry.

Dr. B., on this occasion, attempted to ascertain to what extent Dr. Mitchell might be impressible, and be made the subject of physiological experiments. It was found, on touching the different fingers of his right

hand with the corresponding fingers of Dr. B.'s hand, that no effect was produced, except in the third finger; in which finger the sensation was compared by Dr. M. to that caused by a weak current of electricity. This was perceived not only in the finger, but in the forearm near the elbow. Upon the left hand no sensible impression was produced.

Judging from this experiment that a slight degree of impressibility might exist, an attempt was made to modify the function of vision by the excitement of those cerebral organs which affect it. To ascertain the present condition of that function, Dr. M. was requested to read with each of the eyes alternately, and thus determine their visual range. It appeared that he could read distinctly in the pages of a book handed to him at the distance of sixteen and a half inches, and no difference could be perceived in the visual power of either eye.

Dr. B. now proposed so to modify the visual functions as to contract the range of vision and diminish the clearness of perception in one eye, without producing any effect in the other. His fingers were accordingly applied upon the left side of the head, at the inner canthus of the left eye and about one inch behind the same eye upon the temple. These operations being made upon the visual organs of the left cerebral hemisphere, would, according to Dr. B.'s system, manifest their effects on the right eye. As in this experiment the right eye and the right side of the head were not touched by Dr. B., we know of no method of accounting for the effect produced upon that side, but the law of the decussation which connects each hemisphere of the brain with the opposite half of the body—a law, which, according to the theory of Dr. B., is absolute and unlimited in its application to man. It is obvious that any effects which could be ascribed to touch or pressure upon the nerves or bloodvessels, would be felt in that eye only with which his fingers were nearly in contact.

After holding his fingers in contact about two minutes, after the manner above described, upon the two points which tend to affect the visual sensibility of the right eye and to diminish its perceptive powers, Dr. B. removed his hand, when Dr. M. again tried the comparative visual power of each eye. It now appeared that notwithstanding he could still read with the left eye at the distance of sixteen and a half inches, he could not distinguish the letters at a greater distance than fourteen and a half inches with the right eye. This experiment being repeated, which occupied about two minutes, the same difference of the eye was again noted without any material change.

The third experiment occupied about the same time; and at its conclusion, Dr. M. still read at the same distance with his left eye, but his right eye had become so dim that he could not distinguish a single letter until he brought the book within eight and a half inches of the eye. At this distance he could catch a view of the letters, which, by gradually withdrawing the book, he could retain at fourteen inches. The eye, in the words of Dr. M., felt "dim and suffused;" and he several times applied his fingers to it, as if to remove some obstruction, without apparently producing any relief.

In the fourth experiment, a sufficient interval having elapsed to allow the dimness to pass off, the result was still more decided. Whilst the left eye maintained its usual range of vision, that of the right was four and a half inches shorter.

At the end of the fifth experiment, the relative visual range was nearly the same as in the fourth, the increasing twilight diminishing the absolute range of both eyes, whilst they still evinced a difference of three inches in their relative range.

Dr. B. now proceeded to reverse the operation by touching on the right side of the head, and placing his hand on the left occiput to counteract the excitement which he had previously produced on that side of the head. In a few minutes the eyes were again tried, and there appeared to be a difference of but one inch as before in favor of the right eye. This difference, however, disappeared in the next experiment, and the visual range of the right eye was even an inch greater than that of the left.

In the eighth experiment the result, contrary to expectation, was an inch in favor of the left eye. In this experiment, however, it may be stated that, according to the impressions both of Drs. B. and M., the finger of Dr. B. did not as previously rest upon the exact point which tends to dim the vision of the left eye; but had, on the contrary, touched the organ just above, which he regards as calculated to prolong the power of vision. The experiment was now repeated, cautiously avoiding this error, and the result was that both eyes were equal in their visual range. This was done twice subsequently with the same result.

Dr. B. now stated that it would require some fifteen minutes to reduce the range of the left eye as he had previously done with the right; but as the time of the committee had expired, it was agreed to adjourn.

At the next meeting of the committee, Mr. B——, a member of the Common Council of Jersey city, was present. His age appeared to be about 45, his temperament sanguine bilious, his weight about 200 lbs., his head was largely developed, and his whole appearance indicated firm health. The same class of experiments that had been made on Dr. M., was repeated with more decided effect on Mr. B. For the sake of brevity, the details are here omitted. Both eyes having the same range, twenty-one inches, Dr. B., by two experiments, contracted the range of the left eye to seventeen and a quarter inches, and increased that of the right eye to twenty-seven and a half inches. Subsequently, the range of the left eye was prolonged to twenty-nine inches. In the operations for reducing the range of the left eye, vision became at one time so indistinct that Mr. B. found it difficult to read at any distance, and remarked that all things appeared "dim and foggy." This indistinctness was removed by Dr. B.'s placing his hand on the upper part of the right occiput.

Dr. B. now attempted to show in Mr. B. the modifications of the pulse produced by exciting different parts of the head. The pulse being at 80, full and soft, Dr. B. applied his hands upon the occiput of his subject, for about ten minutes, when it became more tense or wiry, beating

84 to the minute. Dr. Alban Goldsmith, who was then present, discovered the change in the first two or three minutes. Dr. B.'s hand being now placed upon the frontal and upper part of the os frontis, the pulse, without changing its frequency, became softer and more compressible. It was, however, less regular, varying during the different quarters of the minute—a result predicted by Dr. B. The hand being next placed on the side of the head, on the temporal and malar bones, the pulse, in perhaps ten minutes, was reduced to 77, being more feeble and less resisting. Lastly, Dr. B. placed his hand on the top of the head, in the region of firmness. Under this influence, the pulse became more steady and resisting, without increasing in frequency.

Drs. Mitchell and Forry also visited with Dr. B. a lady aged 62, upon whom some interesting experiments in modifying vision were performed. The vision of this lady was so much impaired by age that, without her glasses, as we ascertained by experiment, she could read nothing smaller than capital letters fully half an inch long; and with her glasses, although she was able to read in her bible, yet she could not read the marginal references, which were in smaller type. After some ten or fifteen minutes spent by Dr. B. in exciting the cerebral organs at the internal end of the brow, her vision improved so much that she read with facility print not more than one third as large as that which she had previously been enabled to read. With her glasses on, she now read in her bible with ease, remarking that it appeared plainer than usual, and also read the marginal references in diamond letter, which had been so long illegible to her decaying vision. This experiment was rendered the more intelligible and satisfactory by the discrimination and frankness of the old lady, to whom the results were equally novel and gratifying.

Committee met January 5th.—Present Drs. Griscom, Joslin, Mitchell and Forry.

Dr. Buchanan stated that the object of his experiments to-day was to illustrate the following proposition:—*That a highly impressible individual will receive an influence from touching any part of the head of another person, which will reproduce in himself the specific action of the organ that is touched.* This, Dr. B. remarked, was but a preliminary proposition, showing the foundation of his views as regards a new method of diagnosis. He wished first to show that strong and distinct impressions could be made in this way; that the physiological action of one constitution could, under certain circumstances, be propagated to another; and that in the highly impressible the action reproduced in this manner, will correspond with great exactness to the character of the physiological action belonging to the part touched. Thus when an individual of this peculiar constitution is brought in contact with the forehead of an intellectual person by touching it with the hands, or by placing the foreheads of both in contact with each other, his intellectual faculties become highly excited, and this excitement is greater in proportion to the intensity of the intellectual functions in the person touched. If, instead of touching the intellectual organs, the fingers are placed on those parts of the brain which control the various physiological functions of the body, these functions, in like manner, will become powerfully excited;

and thus it will be practicable to modify the circulation, respiration, digestion, muscular strength, calorification, perspiration, &c., by the influence received from the brain of the person touched.

Dr. B. remarked that after establishing these propositions experimentally, which would show the *rationale* of the neurological diagnosis, he would endeavor to show that one of this impressible constitution might be taught to touch the head in such a manner as not to be carried away by any particular excitement, but to feel and estimate correctly the exact character of the influence received from each point. Thus by touching the cerebral organs which preside over the functions of the stomach, it would be ascertained whether the digestive action is vigorous or feeble, and whether it transmits a healthy or morbid influence. Dr. B. proposed to conduct the experiments by visiting, at their residences, such impressible persons as could be found, and experimenting upon them at home. At this juncture, however, a young lady of about 20 years of age, who had recently become a patient of Dr. B.'s, made her appearance to receive further professional aid. Dr. B. remarked that this was a fortunate circumstance; for as the young lady possessed nearly the highest degree of impressibility, she would be a very appropriate subject for experiment, more especially as her health was now sufficiently restored to bear the various excitements.

The first experiment consisted in her placing several fingers on the organ of calorification in the person of Dr. Joslin, when she very soon exclaimed—"I feel the warm blood rushing over my system." At the same time she passed her hand instinctively over her face; and when asked the cause of that movement, she remarked that she had felt a slight flush there.

In the next experiment, our subject applied her finger, in Dr. J., to a spot intermediate to the eye, the nose and the brow, where the phrenologists have heretofore located the organ of form. The function of this organ, according to Dr. B.'s system, is to adapt the eyes to darkness and to render them incapable of enduring the light without pain. The first effect observed after her finger had been in contact a few moments, was that she closed her eyes and sheltered them with her hands, turning her head away in a manner which indicated that the operation was unpleasant. Dr. B. having again placed her finger on the same spot, whilst she continued to shelter her eyes with the other hand, she again withdrew in the same manner, complaining of a sensation of heat and pain in the eyes, as if irritated by sand. She complained of the light, and would not allow her eyes to be uncovered a moment, notwithstanding the room was so dark—it being about 5 o'clock, P. M.—that it soon became necessary to light candles. One of her hands was now placed on the region of the head of Dr. J., antagonistic of the former organ—a region which diminishes the sensibility of the eyes and gives them the power of endurance. Under this influence, she soon removed her hand from her eyes, gradually opened them, and remarked that they now felt cool.

Her fingers were next placed on the organ in front of the ear of Dr. J., which excites the functions of digestion. In a few moments she

withdrew her hand, saying that she felt a faint, sinking sensation at her stomach, as if from the want of food; and being asked by Dr. J. whether she felt any desire for food, she replied that she did slightly.

In the next place her fingers were put upon a portion of the organ of inspiration in Dr. J. Very soon she raised her hand to the upper part of her chest, with the exclamation—"I feel a rush of blood here expanding the lungs." In recording her language, we may here remark that, although no great importance can be attached to the particular expressions of one entirely unacquainted with anatomy and physiology, yet that the nature of the sensation which she describes would indicate to the physiologist the character as well as the locality of the effect produced. According to the theory of Dr. B., the different portions of the organ of inspiration affect different parts of the chest, the lower part of the organ affecting the lower part of the chest, and producing the greatest depth of inspiration, whilst the higher and intermediate portions of the organ influence the corresponding parts of the chest. As we observed, in this instance, that her fingers were on the upper part of the organ, we noticed the coincidence that she referred the expansion of the lungs to the upper part of the chest.

Dr. B. now remarked that in operating upon her for the benefit of her health, he had found it necessary to excite some of the various functions upon which he had just been operating before the committee; and that it was possible, she entertained some recollection of the localities at which the various effects had been produced. The effects now induced were precisely such as when the experiments were first tried; and he then proposed showing some experiments, in which the committee would perceive that upon the first trial of an experiment, without the slightest knowledge of the intended effect, the results would be as complete, distinct, and positive, as at any subsequent repetition. He proposed to produce other effects, such as had never before been produced in her, and of which she could consequently not have any conception.

Placing her fingers on the head of Dr. J., in the region immediately anterior to aliméntiveness, in a few moments her eyes became downcast and the expression of her countenance rather blank; her hand dropped from the head of Dr. J. and rested on his shoulder in an indolent manner. Her pulse was found to be weak and soft, and beating 76 in a minute, and manifestly growing softer. When her hand was placed upon the upper part and near the middle of the parietal bone of the head of Dr. J., there was an immediate change in the expression of her countenance, which became more animated, the pulse became harder and stronger, beating 84 in a minute.\* There was most obviously a striking increase of strength, as evinced by the use of her arms, and by expressions in reference to her desire and capability of taking exercise. These effects were certainly very appropriate illustrations of the character of the regions which she had touched, the former of which was that of indolence and relaxation, and the latter, energy and tonicity.

\* In all the experiments in which the pulse was concerned, the closest attention was given to the subject by Drs. Griscom and Joslin, each having hold of one of her wrists, whilst the number of beats was determined by means of a watch with a second hand.



The physiological and corporeal effects, according to the system of Dr. B., are connected with the mental phenomena; and the object of the preceding experiments was chiefly to illustrate the former.

In the next experiment the cerebral action seemed to be entirely deranged. One of the cerebral organs, according to the system of Dr. B., produces a violent and irregular excitement, which is incompatible with a regular and correct action of the mental faculties; and which, when carried to excess, produces absolute *insanity*. Her fingers were now placed upon two points of the head of Dr. J., and allowed to remain about ten seconds in contact. An evident effect was produced. Her manner evinced excitement; and when urged to describe the effect, she said that it was very disagreeable and depressing; that she seemed to be actuated by "an ugly and lying disposition," and felt as if she wished to write "a deep black lie," of which she would herself be the heroine. Her fingers were now re-placed on the same points, when similar effects were immediately produced, but in a higher degree. She soon withdrew her fingers, with the remark that she would make "a first-rate heroine;" and began to speak, in a sudden, disconnected and impulsive manner, of what she could accomplish. A few expressions may be given as specimens of her ravings. "I will write a book," said she, "I will beat the '*Arabian Nights*' all to pieces—I'll beat Dorathilgoase—I am as much superior to her"—the sentence here breaking off abruptly. She was asked whether she would publish in the "New World" or "Brother Jonathan," to which she replied indignantly, "It will be a book by itself—it will be bound in red morocco." She was asked whether she would allow Dr. Buchanan to add a postscript to her book; to which she replied—"No, never—people will say that girl is a fool to let Dr. B. write in her book. He is as much below me as I am above Dorathilgoase. I'll even beat Fanny Wright—I'll trample her under foot," at the same time stamping on the floor. After some moments of raving in the same general style, Dr. B. took hold of her hand and placed it on the head of Dr. J. (near whom she was standing), in the region of sanity, cautiousness, conscientiousness and tranquillity, when she immediately turned away and hid her face as if overwhelmed with shame, she being now restored and having an indistinct recollection of her ridiculous conduct.

In this experiment the organs first touched were those of insanity and ideality, the latter of which was no doubt the cause of her literary ambition—a feeling entirely foreign to her natural character.

The next experiment, which was designed to increase the strength of the muscular system, was tried by bringing her hand in contact with the back part of the head of Dr. Griscom. The organ of muscularity, as it is termed by Dr. B., lies in the midst of the most exciting, cruel, quarrelsome and violent passions. As the muscular impulse and pugnacious propensity are thus so closely connected, Dr. B. excited them in conjunction by placing her hand in the region of pugnacious energy in Dr. G. This experiment was made twice successively, touching each time upon portions of the head contained within an area of about two inches in diameter. On each occasion, the effects were very exciting and similar, presenting, however, some perceptible difference. In the



first instance, Dr. B. asked—"How does that work?" to which she replied, energetically—"Humph! how does *that* work?—I think you ought to be horse-whipped—I'd like to strike you," with her hands raised up as if ready to execute the threat. Dr. B. having now placed his hand on the moral region of her head, she was promptly pacified and showed some shame. Her hand was placed again upon the occiput of Dr. G., when similar results immediately followed. She exclaimed, addressing herself to Dr. B.—"Don't come near me—I am afraid I shall knock you down—hanging is too good for you." Dr. B. now restored her in the same manner as before. The experiment was once more repeated, when Dr. B. asked the patient how she now felt. To this she replied—"You ask me how I feel—would you like to try my strength?" thrusting her fist at the same time into the face of Dr. B. She was now, however, prevailed upon to try her strength, by grasping the hand of Dr. G., which she squeezed so powerfully as to compel him to use both of his in resistance, he being a vigorous man and she a feeble woman. From this excitement she was restored to her natural state, and then persuaded to grasp his hand again with her utmost strength, but her exertion seemed not to be comparable to what she had formerly displayed.

Experiments were lastly made to show what effect could be produced on the circulation by the excitement of different organs. According to the doctrines of neurology, every variety of pulse as well as every function of the body, is connected with some particular form of cerebral excitement. Stimulating any cerebral organ would, therefore, produce the exact species of pulse which the organ excited necessarily induces. Her fingers were placed on the organ of calorification in the head of Dr. G., and some excitement of the circulation was noticed; but as her fingers were still held on the same spot until the excitement became oppressive, the pulse became feeble. Her fingers were then changed to the organ of refrigeration, which produces coldness by arresting the development of heat. The first effect of this change seemed to be restorative, as the pulse became stronger and more natural; but as it was continued till she complained of chilliness, the pulse again became feeble. This condition being distinctly perceived by the several members of the committee, who made frequent and almost constant examinations, Dr. B. observed that he would now show that he could invigorate the pulse and bring it up to its natural strength. He placed his hands on the upper and back part of the head of his patient; and the pulse, in a few moments, rose as reported by Drs. G. and J., but assumed a tense and almost wiry character. Dr. B. now remarked that he could change this tense and wiry pulse to a full and soft one. Placing his hands on the front part of her head, the result followed in a few moments, the pulse being palpably fuller and softer. The pulse was again made tense, by placing his hands on the occiput; and again made soft, by placing them on the upper fore part of the head. At each variation of the character of the pulse, its frequency varied from six to ten beats a minute; but the numerical results were not recorded at the time, as the object of Dr. B. was merely to show that the various states of pulse, as full or

small, tense or relaxed, which indicate the various states of the system, are produced by the various conditions of the brain, and that the artificial excitements of the cerebral organs by touch, are as real in their nature and as material in their effects, as any excitements produced in the usual course of nature by moral or physical causes.

#### OPERATIONS PERFORMED AT THE MASS. GENERAL HOSPITAL.

[Reported for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

- **JANUARY 14th.** *Operation for Fistula in Ano*, by **DR. HAYWARD**.—This operation was performed in the usual manner, except that as the fistula was imperforate, a sharp instead of a probe-pointed bistoury was used, and the communication with the rectum being completed by this, the instrument was brought down with the fore finger of the left hand and the sphincter thus entirely divided.

*For removal of Tumor on the Head by Ligature*, by **DR. TOWNSEND**.—This patient entered the Hospital September 24th, for a tumor on left temple, which had appeared about four months before, in consequence of a blow from a stone. When first observed, it was said to be of the size of a walnut, and gradually increased, without pain or tenderness, up to time of entrance, when it was of the size of a hen's egg, hard, smooth, not easily compressed, and afforded no pulsation nor other symptoms of aneurism, though subjected to stethoscopic examination. An attempt was made to remove it, but, on being cut into, it was found to be highly vascular, apparently composed of erectile tissue; considerable hæmorrhage from many small vessels followed, which was checked by dividing the temporal artery and applying pressure. Since then it has been treated with various remedies, among which was caustic potass applied twice daily for a considerable space of time. None of these, however, produced much effect upon the disease. Before the operation, the tumor was of a circular form, two inches in diameter, and of a reddish-brown color, the edges separated from, and a little raised above, the surrounding skin, of an unhealthy appearance, and disposed to bleed when touched. Two needles, each armed with a double ligature, were passed under the tumor at right angles with each other, and the ligatures being cut the ends were tied firmly so as to include the whole of the base of the tumor, in the manner practised for the removal of *nævi materni*. A slight hæmorrhage followed the insertion of the needles, but was easily checked by the application of cold. After the ligatures were tied, the tumor assumed a darker color, and its connection with the head seemed to be cut off, for at least the greater part of its extent.

*Removal of Steatomatous Tumor*, by **DR. WARREN**.—This tumor first made its appearance over the gluteus medius about two years ago, and has gradually increased, without pain or ulceration, until it attained its present size. An incision five inches long was made over the tumor; it was then separated from the skin, directly under which it lay, and to which it was somewhat adherent, and the dissection continued until it was entirely freed from its attachments on all sides and removed. Cold-

water dressings were then applied until the oozing ceased, when the lips of the wound were brought together by two sutures and three strips of adhesive plaster. The tumor was entirely exterior to the muscle, and no arteries were divided which required ligatures.

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#### SURGICAL CASES AT THE ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

*Dr. March's Surgical Clinique, Saturday, January 7, 1843.* [Case 1, sub-luxated or sprained wrist. 2, talipes varus, before operated upon; decided improvement. 3, encysted tumor of the scalp, of 14 years' growth, of an artheromatous character, which, with its secreting sac, was removed. 4, distorted jaw, from injury two years since, probably fracturing the jaw, which united without proper aid. 5, scrofulous ulcer of neck, operated upon two weeks since; indications favorable. 6, disease of elbow-joint, operation three weeks since; improving. 7, necrosis of the tibia, before presented; improving. 8, removal of a portion of a needle, which had remained in the finger for four months. 9, hydrocele, presented six weeks since; cure progressing. 10, necrosis of the tibia; soft parts perforated with sinuous openings, some of which were removed. 11, portion of metacarpal bone removed three weeks since; cure almost complete. 12, contracted frænum linguæ in a child; membrane divided. 13, operation for varicose veins with ulcers of the leg at a previous clinique; the distended veins now obliterated and ulcers improving. 14, incipient amaurosis. 15, operation for strabismus. 16, "Mr. S., with strabismus divergens, and double vision. The patient was operated upon some years since for inverted strabismus, which resulted in the eversion of the right eye, and in double vision. The external rectus muscle was divided. The patient now sees objects single. A thread was passed through the conjunctiva of the eye on which the operation was performed, and the eye retained in a direct position, by securing the thread by adhesive plaster to the inner side of the face." 17, soft, œdematous swelling over the tibia, in a child. 18, notch at external canthus of left eye, from former injury: edges of notch pared, brought into contact, and retained by suture. 19, an immense tumor of two years growth, over inferior angle of left scapula. "An incision was commenced at the anterior middle part of the base of the tumor, carried around its inferior extremity, and up along the base posteriorly to the cut on the anterior side. The integuments were then dissected up, and the morbid growth separated from its attachment at the angle of the scapula. The tumor presented the character of sarcoma. A number of small vessels were secured, and the wound dressed in the usual manner."]

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#### PARTIAL PARALYSIS OF THE FACE IN A CHILD.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

**RESPECTED FRIEND,**—The following case, of much moment to myself, I am induced to believe may prove interesting also to others in the pro-

session, and possibly may give a useful hint in the treatment of similar attacks. My son, aged 12 years, had been passing the summer in New Hampshire, with his relatives, for the purpose of relaxation from his studies at school. His health had been perfectly good, and his physical development every way equal at least to most of his age. One day early in the autumn, while in the field with his uncle, he complained to him that the right side of his face felt stiff; and soon after it was discovered that the muscles of the right cheek were *paralyzed*. His friends immediately returned him to his home, and truly his appearance was such as to excite the most painful emotions. The smile with which he met me heightened the deformity—his mouth and nose were drawn far to the left—his right eye was unnaturally opened by the falling of the lower lid, permitting the tear to trickle over the cheek, and the whole expression of his once fine face was peculiarly revolting and sickening to my feelings. When he slept, his right eye was only partially closed. His brain had not been affected, so far as could be discovered by the manifestation of his intellectual powers—he had no pain—the limbs were in no way disabled—the tongue was, however, slightly involved, rendering the articulation of some words difficult. I could not trace his condition to any satisfactory cause. The history I received was that he had been entirely well up to the time of this attack. His growth had been rapid—his appetite very good, and the only change in his diet was the use, for two weeks previously, of baked sweet apples and milk, of which he had partaken plentifully.

Without attempting to theorize as to the *cause*, my object now is to detail in few words the *treatment* that was pursued, and which resulted most happily in his speedy recovery. After evacuating the system thoroughly by an emetic and cathartic, I resorted at once to the application of *galvanism*—using an apparatus called “Page’s Revolving Armature for Shocks,” made by Daniel Davis, Jun., No. 11 Cornhill, Boston—by means of which a rapid succession of shocks was conveyed through the parts affected. This was continued for half an hour every day; and at the suggestion of a scientific friend, some action was kept up during both his sleeping and waking hours by means of a piece of silver passed inside the mouth between the cheek and gums, connected, by a copper wire soldered to it, to a semi-elliptical piece of zinc adapted to the back of the neck. In conjunction with this treatment strychnine was administered three times daily, in doses of from one eighteenth to one twelfth of a grain—a larger quantity inducing the specific and very unpleasant effects of an over dose of that medicine. Every day a manifest improvement was witnessed; and in *ten days* after commencing this course, I had the happiness of seeing my boy *perfectly restored*—not a vestige of the disease remained. More than three months have now elapsed, and not the slightest recurrence of the complaint has been manifested—but in the enjoyment of perfect health he is uninterruptedly pursuing his studies at school.

SAMUEL BOYD TOBEY.

*Providence, R. I., 1st month 14th, 1843.*

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BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

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BOSTON, JANUARY 25, 1843.

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## DISEASES OF FEMALES.

A SECOND edition of that excellent book on the diseases of females, including those of pregnancy and child-bed, by Fleetwood Churchill, M.D., with notes by Robert M. Huston, M.D., of the Jefferson Medical College, has reached Boston. Dr. Churchill has been regarded in the light of a judicious writer, who never allows himself to pass slightly or hastily over any subject that is worth the consideration of the medical practitioner. He has anticipated almost every condition of the patient, and in a plain way teaches the method of medication, based on philosophical principles. The notes appended by Dr. Huston will be as much appreciated by Dr. Churchill, we apprehend, as by any one else. We feel justified in saying, from a correspondence with the author on the first appearance of this work in America, some years ago, that he feels greatly flattered by the kindness with which his writings have been received by the profession in the United States. The new editor remarks, that the reader will have the satisfaction of discovering that, although no large additions have been made by him, nothing has been omitted that is contained in the volume as sent forth by the accomplished author himself. Two volumes, it will be understood, therefore, are now compressed into one, accompanied by the labors and comments of Dr. Huston, whose claims to respect will not be denied. The present form of the book is convenient, being an octavo of good dimensions, fair type, and in every respect like the best medical productions from the press of Messrs. Lea & Blanchard.

*A Practical Treatise on Venereal Diseases.*—Few practitioners could be found, it is presumed, who are strangers to M. Ricord's critical and experimental researches on inoculation, applied to the study of venereal affections. The present treatise is a translation from the French of Ricord, by Henry Pilkington Drummond, M.D.—who was ambitious to “present those medical men, who have not the advantage of being able to read the original, a faithful translation of a work of so much acknowledged merit.” The book is divided into three parts: the first treats of the existence of the syphilitic virus, proved by inoculation. The means of propagating it, completes the first chapter. Gonorrhœa, chancre, bubo and mucous tubercle, fill up the second; and in the third chapter, inoculation distinguishes primary from secondary symptoms, &c. In the fourth, inoculation should of course embrace it, either in the language of the author, or in its present English garb, which is the true mode of presenting it to American physicians. This edition contains 254 pages, large-sized octavo, and it emanates from the press of Messrs. Lea & Blanchard, Philadelphia.

*Meteorology.*—Samuel Forry, M.D., of New York, a miracle of industry, and of acknowledged scientific authority on almost all subjects to which his active mind is brought to bear, will speedily issue a work on meteorology. It is to appear in an extra New World, a popular New-York method of sending forth scientific literature, within the reach of all classes of the reading and inquiring community. The price will be only twenty-five cents.

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*Honorary Degrees of Medicine.*—Dr. John Acers, of Michigan; Dr. Henry H. Belding, of New York; Dr. Caleb Pierce, and Dr. J. B. Stafford, of Pennsylvania, received the honorary degree of M.D. at the late fall session of the Castleton Medical College, Vermont.

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*Mortality of Boston in 1842.*—By the returns at the Health Office, there were 4726 deaths in Boston last year. Of pulmonary consumption, 307 persons appear to have died; of infantile diseases, 152; stillborn, 166; teething, 64; intemperance, 34; lung fever, 139; scarlet, 248; typhus, 65; hooping cough, 23; disease of the heart, 42; cholera infantum, 34; dropsy of the brain, 74; inflammation of the bowels, 61; and lastly, of small-pox, 40. No epidemic prevailed in the course of the year, and the city is not excelled by any other in the United States, in point of general health and average salubrity of climate.

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*Black Tongue.*—We regret to learn, says the Saratoga Sentinel, that the town of Day, in this county, is afflicted with a terrible epidemic (the black tongue), which had at the last accounts deceased some twenty or thirty of the inhabitants, and was still raging with fearful fatality. Eliphas M. Day, Supervisor of that town, together with three or four members of his family, report says, are among the victims of this dreadful malady.—Can any of the correspondents of the Journal, in that vicinity, explain to us the nature of the *black tongue*?

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*Erysipelas in Vermont.*—From the Vermont Watchman, we learn that the erysipelas is prevailing at Charleston, Newark and Burke, at the north of Montpelier. In some districts, says the paper referred to, the number of well is scarcely sufficient to take care of the sick and bury the dead. Deaths have also occurred in Barnet, the easterly part of Danville, and occasionally in other towns in that region. Medical attentions seem to have but little influence in modifying the severity of the disease. Mild forms of the malady, in the beginning, are not generally fatal. Last year the same fatal and desolating disease was extensively prevalent in some parts of New Hampshire.

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*Mortality in 1842.*—The deaths in Williamstown, Vermont, during the year 1842, were 38 in number, out of a population of 1620. Of these, 15 were under the age of 10 years; 10 were between the ages of 10 and 60; and 13 were 69 years old and upwards. The least mortality was in the months of January and December, 1 in each month.



**TO CORRESPONDENTS.**—The communications of Drs. Bradbury, Heaton, Lee, Dixon and J. T., with others before acknowledged, will be inserted as soon as space can be found for them. The paper on Neurology, in to-day's Journal, from an eminent physician in New York, has taken the place of communications of prior claims, on account of circumstances connected with it requiring its insertion this week, if admitted at all.—A change in the size of the Journal, at the commencement of the ensuing volume, is in contemplation, which will enable us to dispose of the communications of correspondents with more rapidity in future. Further particulars will be given next week.

**MARRIED.**—In Stanstead, Canada, John Meigs, M.D., to Miss Elizabeth C. T. Grannis.—In Northfield, Vt., Dr. Charles W. Calkins, of Lunenburg, to Miss S. M. Cameron.—In Newburyport, Ephraim M. Hyde, M.D., of Frankfort, to Miss Susan H. Coffin.—At Portsmouth, Samuel Ingalls, M.D., of Lowell, Mass., to Miss Clara A. Hill, of Portsmouth.—In Portsmouth, N. H., E. G. Tucker, M.D., of Boston, to Miss E. M. Harris.—At Hartford, Conn., Dr. Warren Thralh to Miss Louisa White.—In Boston, Dr. Joshua A. Abbott to Miss Judith Wentworth.

**DIED.**—At Kingston, N. C., Dr. William Holland, a native of Massachusetts.—At Lynn, Mass., Dr. Charles O. Barker, 40, an estimable member of the medical profession. His death was caused by a slight wound in the finger, while conducting a post-mortem examination.

Number of deaths in Boston for the week ending Jan. 21, 35.—Males, 20; Females, 16. Stillborn, 4. Of consumption, 3—droupy, 1—croup, 3—lung fever, 1—smallpox, 6—infantile, 3—bowel complaint, 1—paralytic, 1—disease of the brain, 1—bronchitis, 1—ossification of brain, 1—varioid, 1—pleurisy fever, 1—droupy in the head, 1—fits, 1—chickenpox, 2—scarlet fever, 2—debility, 1—menes, 1—constipation of the bowels, 1—old age, 1—droupy on the brain, 2—drowned, 1.

#### VERMONT MEDICAL COLLEGE AT WOODSTOCK.

THE annual course of Lectures will be commenced on the first Thursday of March next, and will be continued fourteen weeks.

##### FACULTY.

HENRY H. CHILDS, M.D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine and Obstetrics.  
HON. JACOB COLLAMER, A.M., Professor of Medical Jurisprudence.  
BENJAMIN R. PALMER, M.D., Professor of General, Special and Surgical Anatomy, and Physiology.  
ALONZO CLARK, M.D., Professor of General and Special Pathology and Materia Medica.  
EDWARD M. MOORE, M.D., Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery.  
CHESTER DEWEY, M.D., Professor of Chemistry, Botany and Natural Philosophy.  
DANIEL CAMPBELL, M.D., Demonstrator of Anatomy.

Fees—for the course, \$50. Matriculation, \$3. Graduation, \$18.

Board, including room, fuel, &c., may be obtained in good families from \$1.50 to \$2.00 a week.

By order of the Faculty,

B. R. PALMER, Dean.

Woodstock, January 1st, 1843.

Jan. 25—epm1

#### UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK.—MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

##### SPRING COURSE OF LECTURES.

THE Spring Course of Lectures in this Institution will commence on Monday, March 20th, and continue until early in June.

VALENTINE MOTT,	-	-	-	Surgery.
GRANVILLE SHARP PATTISON,	-	-	-	Anatomy.
JOHN REYSER,	-	-	-	Practice of Medicine.
MARTIN PAINE,	-	-	-	Institutes and Materia Medica.
GUNNING S. BEDFORD,	-	-	-	Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children.
JOHN WILLIAM DRAPER,	-	-	-	Chemistry.

The dissecting room will be open as long as the weather will permit, and the usual facilities afforded for daily attendance at the New York Hospital, and at the Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Fee for the whole course of Lectures, \$50. Fee for the dissecting room, an attendance on which is optional, \$5.

The Faculty will receive an attendance on two complete summer courses as an equivalent for one winter course.

Respectable board can be obtained at from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per week. By order of the Faculty,

Jan. 25—ep1L

JOHN WM. DRAPER, Secretary.

THE subscriber having completed a convenient building for the accommodation of students, with an office, well-furnished library, and dissecting room attached, is prepared to receive pupils, and to afford every necessary facility. Such other practical advantages as are to be found in the private medical schools of this city, will also be given. Jan. 25—ep6m

WINSLOW LEWIS, JR.



## NOTICE.—MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

CENSORS' MEETING.—A Stated Meeting of the Censors of the First Medical District will be held at the house of the subscriber, No. 21 Pearl street, Boston, on the last Wednesday of the next month, January 25th, 1843, at 3 o'clock, P. M.  
 Z. B. ADAMS, Secretary of the  
 Boston, Dec. 28th, 1842. J. 4—eptom Censors of the First Med. Dist. of M. M. Soc.

## MEDICAL SCHOOL OF MAINE.

THE Medical Lectures at Bowdoin College will commence on Monday, the 20th day of February, 1843.

Theory and Practice of Physic, by	WILLIAM SWEETSER, M.D., of New York.
Anatomy and Surgery, by	EDMUND R. PEARLEE, M.D., of Dart. Coll.
Obstetrics, by	EBENEZER WELLS, M.D.
Chemistry and Materia Medica, by	PARKER CLEAVELAND, M.D.

The Library, containing about 3000 volumes, principally modern works, and the Anatomical Cabinet are annually increasing.

Every person becoming a member of this institution, is required *previously* to present *satisfactory* evidence of possessing a good moral character.

The amount of fees for the lectures is \$50, payable in advance. Graduation fee, \$10. The lectures continue three months.

Degrees are conferred at the close of the lecture term in May, and at the following Commencement in September.

Brunswick, Nov., 1842.

N. 23.—stenw

PARKER CLEAVELAND,  
 Secretary.

## THE NEW ENGLAND QUARTERLY MEDICAL JOURNAL

FOR January is now ready for delivery, at this office. It contains original communications—On the Statistics of Pulmonary Consumption, by G. Hayward, M.D.; Cases of Tracheotomy, by A. Twitchell, M.D.; Influence of Temperature upon Mortality, by C. E. Ware, M.D.; Dropsy of the Fœtus, by W. Channing, M.D.; Stricture of the Oesophagus, by H. G. Clark, M.D.; and the Fiske Funde Prize Dissertation, on Spinal Diseases, by U. Parsons, M.D. With Reviews, Bibliographical Notices, Reports from the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, and Extracts from Foreign Journals.

Jan. 18

## TO THE PROFESSION.

THE subscriber having taken the establishment kept for some years in the delightful and healthy town of Groton, by Dr. A. H. Wilder, as a Retreat for Invalids, can now accommodate a few more patients. His attention is devoted to those laboring under nervous complaints and chronic affections generally. Horses, carriages, baths, and everything calculated to promote the health and happiness of the inmates, are provided. For more particular information, address, post paid,

Groton, Mass., Jan. 22, 1843.

JAMES M. CUMMINGS, M.D.

## SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS.

THE subscribers have for sale, and are constantly receiving from foreign and domestic sources, a great variety of Surgical and Chirurgical Instruments of the most modern and approved construction, comprising Amputating, Trepanning, Obstetrical, Dental, Dressing, Post-mortem, Strabismus, Fistula Lachrymalis, Dissecting, Cupping, Couching, Tonsillary; Stomach-pumps; Trocars, rectum, hydrocele, &c.; Curved, half-curved and straight Needles; Lancets; Syringes; Rectum and Urethral Bougies; Catheters; Pessaries; Trusses; Suspensory Bandages, &c. &c.

Students and others are invited to call and examine their assortment before making their purchases.

Dec. 21—eop121

BREWERS, STEVENS & CUSHING, Druggists,

Nos. 90 and 92 Washington street.

## TREMONT-STREET MEDICAL SCHOOL.

THE subscribers, at their rooms in Tremont street, continue to give personal instruction to private pupils as heretofore, in the various branches of medicine, in connection with the practical pursuit of anatomy, and attendance on the Massachusetts General Hospital, the Eye and Ear Infirmary, and the other opportunities belonging to their school.

Jy 28—eoply

JACOB BIGELOW,  
 EDWARD REYNOLDS,  
 D. HUMPHREYS STORER,  
 OLIVER W. HOLMES.

## MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.—COUNSELLORS' MEETING.

A STATED meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society will be held at the Society's room, Masonic Temple, Tremont street, on Wednesday, February 1st, at 11 o'clock, A. M.  
 Jan. 18—2t

SAMUEL MORRILL, Rec. Sec'y.

## MAYNARD &amp; NOYES,

IMPORTERS and wholesale dealers in drugs and medicines, surgical instruments, &c., No. 11 Merchants' Row, Boston. Physicians from the country may be sure of receiving from our establishment none but the best of medicines, on satisfactory terms, for cash or credit, and are invited to forward their orders.

Je 15.—lamly

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL is published every Wednesday by D. CLAPP, JR., at 184 Washington St., corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, post paid. It is also published in Monthly Parts, with a printed cover. There are two volumes each year. J. V. C. SMITH, M.D., Editor. Price \$3.00 a year in advance, \$3.50 after three months, or \$4.00 if not paid within the year. Two copies to the same address, for \$5.00 a year, in advance. Orders from a distance must be accompanied by payment in advance or satisfactory reference. Postage the same as for a newspaper.